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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Attn: Mail Stop Amendment

Tadashi SAO et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3744

Serial No. 10/580,909 : Examiner: Mohammad M. Ali

Filed: May 30, 2006 : **Confirmation No. 6843**

For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR

CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH:

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application:

[X] No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	CLAIMS		SMALL ENTITY	SMALL ENTITY
REMAINING AFTER	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY	PRESENT	ADDIT.	ADDIT.
AMENDMENT	PAID FOR	EXTRA	RATE FEE	RATE FEE
TOTAL 15	- 20 =	0	x 25 = \$	x 50 = \$
INDEP 2	- 3 =	0	x 105 = \$	<u>x 210 = \$</u>
1 1ST PRESENTATION OF MULT. DEP. CLAIM			<u>+ 185 = \$</u>	+ 370 = \$
-			TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$

- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.
 - [X] Any additional excess claim fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
 - [X] Any additional patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Dated: July 14, 2008

/Patrick A. Hilsmier/ Patrick A. Hilsmier Reg. No. 46,034

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 293-0444

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DK-US040366

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the April 21, 2008 Office Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the <u>Listing of Claims</u>, which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1-15 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being the only independent claims.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.